

REMARKS**Summary of the Office Action**

Claims 1 and 3-6 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,938,494 to Betsui (hereinafter "Betsui") in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,797,780 to Peng (hereinafter "Peng").

Claim 2, while objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, would be allowable if rewritten in independent form.

Claims 7-8 stand withdrawn from consideration as being drawn to a nonelected invention.

Summary of the Response to the Office Action

Applicant has canceled claims 1, 7 and 8 without prejudice or disclaimer. Applicant has also amended claim 2 to rewrite it in independent form in light of the Office Action's indication of allowable subject matter. The dependencies of claims 3-5 have been amended in light of the cancellation of claim 1. Accordingly, claims 2-6 remain pending for consideration.

All Pending Claims are Now In Condition for Allowance

Claims 1 and 3-6 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Betsui in view of Peng. Claim 2, while objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Claims 7-8 stand withdrawn from consideration as being drawn to a nonelected invention.

Applicant has amended claim 2 to rewrite it in independent form in light of the Office Action's indication of allowable subject matter. Accordingly, claim 2 is now in prima-facie condition for allowance. As a result, Applicant has canceled claim 1 without prejudice or disclaimer.

The dependencies of claims 3-5 have been amended in light of the cancellation of claim 1. These claims are in condition for allowance at least because of their dependency on newly-amended claim 2.

Withdrawn claims 7-8 have also been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer to their possible presentation in a divisional application to be filed subsequently.

Accordingly, remaining claims 2-6 are currently in condition for allowance. Withdrawal of all outstanding rejections and objections are respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicant submits that the pending claims are in condition for allowance, and respectfully request reconsideration and timely allowance of the pending claims. Should the Examiner feel that there are any issues outstanding after consideration of this response, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicant's undersigned representative to expedite prosecution. A favorable action is awaited.

EXCEPT for issue fees payable under 37 C.F.R. § 1.18, the Commissioner is hereby authorized by this paper to charge any additional fees during the entire pendency of this application including fees due under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 and 1.17 which may be required, including any required extension of time fees, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-0573.

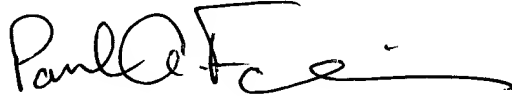
This paragraph is intended to be a **CONSTRUCTIVE PETITION FOR EXTENSION OF TIME** in accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a)(3).

Respectfully submitted,

DRINKER BIDDLE & REATH LLP

Dated: July 11, 2005

By:

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Paul A. Fournier", written over a horizontal line.

Paul A. Fournier

Reg. No. 41,023

Customer No. 023973
Drinker Biddle & Reath LLP
1500 K Street, N.W., Suite 1100
Washington, DC 20005-1209
Tel.: (202) 842-8800
Fax: (202) 842-8465